



St Edmund Arrowsmith Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy News

Spring 2023

Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the first ever newsletter from St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School's Chaplaincy Team!

We are hoping to send out one of these newsletters more regularly to keep you informed of all the wonderful things our students are getting up to that contribute to the Catholic life of our school.

This is just a snapshot of what has been happening this academic year, but we hope that you are encouraged by the discipleship and witness of our students and staff.

Don't forget, more of what we get up to can be found on our school website and twitter accounts! Find the links to them on the back page.



"Let us encourage the generosity which is typical of the young and help them to work actively in building a better world. Youth do not solely need material things. Above all, they need to have those non-material values which are the spiritual heart of a people ... spirituality, generosity, solidarity, perseverance, fraternity, and joy.."



Year Seven Retreat Days

In September and October all of our Y7 students had the opportunity to take part in a Retreat Day with their form group at the Canons Hall in St Oswald's Church. The day was led by the Chaplain, Maria and their RE & Form teacher and was such a wonderful way to get to know each other! The theme for the day was "I am Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" which is a verse taken from Psalm 139 which was our key scripture for the day.

Students participated in ice breaker games and team building activities as well as having opportunities for prayer and quiet reflection. As part of their retreat day, the students went to St Oswald's

Church to meet our Parish Priest, Fr John Gorman, who led us in Exposition, the Angelus and then a very interesting talk about our Patron Saint, St Edmund Arrowsmith. Fr John showed the pupils the Holy Hand of St Edmund which was particularly exciting.

During the day, many lasting friendships were formed. Friendships we hope will stand the test of time as we journey together with our Y7's through the next 5 years of their school life. It is our hope that they always remember how amazing they are, for they truly are fearfully and wonderfully made.



"Prepare a Way for the Lord"



Welcome Masses for Y7 & Y11



It is tradition in our school to begin Years 7 & 11 with a welcome Mass. For our newest year group, this Mass is a welcome into our school and parish community. It always takes place after they have been on their retreat days and ties in the theme of the day with an uplifting challenge for the students to continue to be their individual authentic selves as they journey through the years in high school.

For our oldest year group, our Y11's, their welcome Mass is an opportunity to gather together as a year group in prayer at the start of what is a challenging year for all academically. We offer up the Y11's exam worries and stresses and ask God our Father to send his Holy Spirit to strengthen and calm them. The students are always reminded by Fr John that the whole parish community is praying for them as they prepare for their final school year.

Both our Masses are open to parents, friends and family members and is always a wonderful occasion to share in the joys and expectations both the first and last year of high school can bring.

To observe Remembrance Day, all our students created an individual Form Poppy wreath. On the poppies, students wrote prayers for service men and women who had died in conflict. Some students researched members of their own family who had died in the World Wars and wrote their name in remembrance on the wreaths. These wreaths were then laid at the foot of the cross during our Remembrance Day Service that took place on the field at the front of school.

All students who are part of the Cadet services were invited to wear their cadet uniforms as a mark of respect. They also played a significant part in our service by reciting readings, prayers and laying the wreaths.



Remembrance Day



"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them"

Carol Services at St Oswald's



"Prepare a Way for the Lord"

Our School Mission Statement is "Prepare the Way of the Lord", and what better way to prepare for the birth of Christ than by singing Carols and listening to the readings of Jesus' Nativity!

Our Carol Service at St Oswald's Church was a very special occasion. The service began in silence – broken by the angelic voice of one of our Y11 Students Amy W singing the first verse of Once In Royal David's City. It was a powerful and prayerful moment as this then led on to the whole congregation joining in from verses 2 onward.

Carols were performed by all of the different school choirs in addition to congregational carols – those of which were accompanied by our school concert band. Readings were delivered by both staff and students. Parents, students, teachers, governors and parishioners turned out in their droves for the special occasion and all who attended felt truly prepared to welcome Jesus into their homes on Christmas morning.

Putting our Faith into Action



EDDIES ADVENT APPEAL 2022



FOOD HAMPER

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." - Matthew 25:40



Inspired by the words of Pope Francis when he calls on young people to demand change, our Chaplaincy group of volunteers took it upon themselves to set up a food bank in school to help both local charities and individual families in our school community. Throughout Advent and into the Spring Term, our Chapel has been transformed into a Food Bank drop off point for staff and students to donate unwanted items of food, baby formula, toiletries and clothing.

Our Chaplaincy group has so far made two large donations to the local Food Bank that supplies Ashton Pantry, one large donation to Warrington Food Bank who put out an urgent appeal and have distributed a significant number of food hampers to families in our school community who have been struggling over the winter months.

At Christmas time, we were also in a position to donate special festive hampers to some of our families and

sent over 80 chocolate selection boxes to local charities to be distributed as Christmas presents.

Currently, our Chaplaincy group are collecting items of clothing to be sent to Billinge Family Church and their Storehouse Project.

Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded."

- Pope Francis
Laudato Si'



In addition to the many bake sales, raffles, tombola's, crossbar challenges & 'Guess the name of the Teddy' competitions, we also have a number of other creative charity events going on in our school community where pupils raise money for local and national causes as well as for charities close to our students hearts.

One of the charities we regularly support in school, especially around

Lent is the Good Shepherd Appeal. This year, our students decided to sell faux roses and sparkly love heart wands for Valentines Day and give the proceeds to the Appeal.

Students were able to buy a faux rose and have a member of the chaplaincy team deliver it anonymously to their secret crush on Valentines morning. There was a lot of love in the air on Valentines day, with some lucky students receiving three individual roses!

As a school, we always encourage our young people to involve themselves in charities that are close to their hearts.



"Prepare a Way for the Lord"



Flame Congress 2023 – Rise Up!

On Saturday 4th March, Mr Cullen, Maria and two Y11 representatives went from school to the Flame 2023 Congress at the OVO Arena Wembley. Flame is the largest Catholic gathering of young people in England and Wales and happens bi-annually – although the Covid disruption of recent years has made this congress a long time in coming.

The theme of Flame 2023 – which is exactly 150 days before World Youth Day in Lisbon – takes the WYD Scripture “Mary arose and went with haste” and crystallises it into the theme, “Rise Up!” This call to rise up can be echoed in all aspects of our life. Rise up after the pandemic, Rise up as young Catholics, Rise up – as Mary did – for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith.

During the day, there were messages of hope and faith from Ant & Dec, Cardinal Tagle and even Pope Francis! But there was also time for singing & dancing to live performances from Guvna B, One Hope Project and many more. In addition to the fun, inspirational talks and singing there were beautiful moments of prayer and reflection culminating in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to end our day together. It really was a truly wonderful day and we can't wait to go back in 2025!



"His Holiness Pope Francis was pleased to learn that young Catholics from across England and Wales are gathering ... he sends heartfelt good wishes and the assurance of his spiritual closeness to all taking part."

Message from Pope Francis for Flame 2023

flame

RISE UP
RISE UP
RISE UP



Join us!



www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk



@SEACHaplaincy
@SEACHS1961



Wishing you a
happy and holy
Easter

Lenten Masses

Our whole school has taken part in a Lenten Mass throughout the last week of term, whereby all students and staff went across to St Oswald's Church to celebrate Mass with Fr Patsy and Deacon Jim. The theme of our Mass was the '7 Last Sayings of Christ' and we had reflections and short freeze-frame dramatisations which were performed by the pupils.

This is always an important part of our Lenten journey in school as it brings to an end our school preparations for Lent and prepares us for the upcoming Holy Week. It ties together nicely all our daily form prayer reflections, our weekly Collective Worship themes and our daily Way of the Cross reflections during Morning Prayer. Our school Mission Statement is to 'Prepare a Way for the Lord' and our Lenten Mass is our school communities final preparation before we enter into Holy Week and prepare to welcome Jesus as our saviour and conqueror of death on Easter Sunday.

A final encouragement is extended to all our students to visit their own parishes over Easter and attend one of their Masses at this most special time in the Church's year.

"Prepare a Way for the Lord"